

1. Project Description

A. Statement of GO Activity

Ground operations identified in this project will consist of the following projects:

Trail Maintenance -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain 42 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. The majority of annual tread maintenance is completed using a SWECO 480 trail tractor and or Kubota tractor. These activities are conducted only when soil moisture is adequate and in accordance with the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines and the technical paper, "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California." Please see the San Bernardino National Forest OHV Program Soil Conservation Plan, attached to this application, for detailed information about mechanized maintenance procedures.

Facilities O&M -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain and repair OHV facilities across the forest, including two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailing sites and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Activities will include cleaning, trash removal, painting, repair and general upkeep of all OHV related facilities including buildings, toilets, picnic tables, signs, etc. This project also provides staff and materials necessary to operate four OHV work centers, which house ATVs, tools and equipment used by the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and 38 active Adopt-a-Trail groups.

WHPP/HMP implementation -- This project provides staff necessary to update the annual WHPP/HMP and to conduct routine monitoring of HMP sites across the forest.

Soil Conservation -- This project provides the staff and materials necessary to implement the forest's soil conservation plan. Soil condition ratings will be established on each OHV trail annually, using the new Red, Yellow, Green format found in the 2008 regulations. In addition to this, staff also conducts additional monitoring using a soil erosion bridge measurement system to observe, over time, soil movement within the trail tread. This data is used to detect change and to identify potential causes of soil loss within the trail tread. The forest also uses soil monitoring pins to identify sediment loading adjacent routes. This procedure uses 8 inch steel pins placed in lead out ditches and cross drains immediately after annual maintenance. The top of the pin gives a datum from which changes in the soil surface level can be measured. Pins are monitored before and after annual maintenance to determine the amount of soil, if any, which has moved off the trail bed. If this measurement is greater than that at time of installation, then soil loss is occurring. If this measurement is less than that at time of installation, then sediment loading is occurring. This data is then used immediately in the field, during routine maintenance, to determine what corrective action, if any, should be taken to reduce soil movement from or adjacent the trail.

The project also provides staff necessary to update the forest's Soil Conservation Program to insure consistency with the new 2008 guidelines.

Archaeological Site Identification and Stewardship -- This project provides staff and materials necessary to conduct an Archaeological Field School, which will inventory heritage resources located in and around the Big Bear Lake area. The field school will support current restoration efforts on the Mountain Top District by identifying heritage sites within proposed restoration areas, helping facilitate the restoration of approximately 15 miles of unauthorized OHV routes. This project will also provide staff and materials necessary to implement a new Volunteer Heritage Site Stewardship program. The project will organize and train a team of volunteers who will routinely monitor known archaeological sites adjacent and within OHV use areas across the forest.

B. Relation of Proposed Project to OHV Recreation

Ground operations of the forest's OHV program can be divided into three categories, including; trail maintenance, facilities, and resource monitoring and protection. Each of these three phases are critical to sustaining OHV operations, as follows.

Trail Maintenance -- Hosting over 200,000 visitors per year, the OHV road and trail system on the Forest is heavily impacted. The majority of this use, by motorcycles and ATVs, is concentrated on the 24" and 50" trail systems, as these routes provide the experience and level of challenge that most users are seeking. The impacts to these trails are considerable, and they must be maintained annually to prevent unacceptable impacts to Forest resources. While the contributions of volunteers to this effort are invaluable, it is also necessary to conduct mechanized maintenance on a regular basis, by trained and skilled professionals, to reestablish trail structures and prevent erosion, runoff and soil loss. This level of maintenance is also necessary to periodically restore trails to their intended level of difficulty. By maintaining all trails to their intended standard, users are encouraged to remain on designated routes since they are exposed to the trail experience and level of difficulty they anticipate. Public health and safety is also protected as novice users seeking an 'easy' experience are likely to find a well-groomed, obstacle-free trail when they choose an 'Easiest' route.

Facilities -- This phase of the ground operations program must be fully implemented to meet the objectives of the program and the ever-increasing needs of the OHV using public. Maintenance and repair of directional and informational signs at trailheads and staging areas is critical to directing users to legal opportunities and away from sensitive or rehabilitated areas. Adequate, well-maintained signage installed at closed areas and restoration sites informs the user why areas are closed and provides information about restoration efforts and how they protect OHV opportunity. Proper administration, maintenance and cleaning of staging areas, restrooms and other facilities also promotes compliance, as users are often inclined to treat facilities as they appear to be treated by others. Public health and safety are also protected by routine maintenance of facilities insuring that all buildings, structures and fixtures are maintained to a safe standard. This project also supports four OHV work centers located across the forest. These facilities serve as storage and maintenance facilities, as well as meeting space for Forest staff and Volunteers. OHVs and motorcycles, many of which were purchased with OHV Trust funds, are securely stored in these facilities along with trail tools, safety equipment, restoration/conservation supplies and first aid equipment. These facilities are routinely used by Adopt-a-Trail groups and SBNFA OHV Volunteers, who contribute over 40,000 hours to the forest annually in support of the OHV program.

Resources -- Resource monitoring activities are a critical component of the Forest's OHV operations and maintenance program. Forest staff, with assistance from OHV Volunteers and Adopt-a-Trail participants, regularly monitors all of the roads and trails designated for OHV use on the Forest. This is a very time consuming and expensive task, as OHV use is spread across the majority of the Forest. Resource monitoring programs have been in place on the Forest for decades, and have proven to be very effective in early detection of resource impacts to allow mitigation before major restoration activities are required. Continued implementation of the Forest's extensive monitoring/resource management program is critical to the ongoing success of the OHV program. Routine soil monitoring allows soil loss to be identified early, before trails reach a 'red' condition, and are forced closed. This also protects habitat, as soil is prevented from moving out of trail corridors and into streams, where sedimentation could impact habitat and water quality. WHPP/HMP monitoring conducted quarterly allows staff and volunteers to identify and mitigate minor impacts before they have a chance to become established. This helps prevent 'take' of TES species in areas where they are known to exist, and allows the Forest to effectively manage for designated routes only, as illegal trails are quickly discovered and mitigated before having a chance to appear permanent. Expanded heritage site monitoring through development of a volunteer program will reduce impacts to known cultural resources and prevent area closures (temporary or permanent) necessary to mitigate heritage resources when they are compromised.

C. Size of the Project

This project will provide for the maintenance and upkeep of the following:

42 miles of 24-50" designated OHV trail, to be conducted by forest OHV staff

169 miles of designated OHV routes, through partnership with 38 Adopt-a-Trail groups

Two Designated Staging Areas

The Forest operates two designated staging areas, Cactus Flats and Pinnacles, which are generally open year round. Both are full-service facilities offering restrooms, loading ramps, picnic tables and informational kiosks.

Three Campgrounds

The San Bernardino National Forest operates three 'OHV friendly' campgrounds which are directly accessible from the designated OHV route system; Horse Springs Campground, Big Pine Flats Campground, and Crab Flats Campground. Each is a developed campground offering restrooms and other amenities. Direct OHV access to and from campsites is allowed in each of the three campgrounds.

Four OHV Work Centers

The Forest maintains four 'work center' facilities to support the OHV program. The North Shore Work Center (constructed in 2003 using OHV trust funds), Big Bear Volunteer Garage, Lytle Creek OHV Outpost and Cranston OHV Outpost all serve as storage and maintenance facilities, as well as meeting space for Forest staff and Volunteers.

The project also provides for the monitoring and protection of 191 special status species across 51 WHPP/HMP monitoring sites.

The project will also provide for the identification and recordation of an unknown number of potential archaeological sites on the Mountain Top District. The project will also provide for the protection, through volunteer stewardship, of several hundred previously known archaeological sites across the forest.

D. Location and description of OHV opportunities

The San Bernardino National Forest offers a designated OHV road and trail system, with no open areas on the Forest. The forest offers 42 miles of 24-50" trails with an additional 169 miles of forest roads available for green sticker/red sticker use. In addition there are 734 miles of level 2 roads open to SUV/4WD use - 104 miles of which are 4WD routes. The system offers ample opportunity for enthusiasts of all experience levels including novice, intermediate, and expert. Trails are rated by difficulty, and are signed easiest, more difficult, or most difficult. Due to the mild climate, OHV riding opportunities are year round. A wide variety of vehicle types including dual sport motorcycles, dirt bikes (red & green sticker), ATVs, and 4WD/SUVs use the 4WD and green sticker/red sticker designated route system. The forest provides OHV opportunity on each of its three Districts.

The Forest also offers two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailer sites, and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Four OHV work centers assist in fielding the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and nearly 40 active Adopt-a-Trail groups. Please see attached facilities map for detailed information regarding OHV trails and facilities. More detailed maps are available at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Recreation.

2. Rerouting Requirements

Rerouting

- (a) Does your project involve rerouting of any roads and trails? Yes No

If response to question (a) is 'Yes', a Project timeline, conceptual drawings and site plans are required (See 'Attachments' tab at the top of the screen)

If response to question (a) is 'No', skip details related to rerouting

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1. **Project Timeline (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
2. **Conceptual Drawings and Site Plans (Required if project includes necessary rerouting)**
3. **Project-Specific Maps**
Attachments:
 - [Facilities Map Index](#)
 - [Trail Maintenance Map Index](#)
4. **Optional Project-Specific Application Documents**

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
 Application: San Bernardino NF Ground Operations

6/2/2009

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:		Version # _____	APP # _____
APPLICANT NAME :	USFS - San Bernardino National Forest		
PROJECT TITLE :	San Bernardino NF Ground Operations	PROJECT NUMBER (Division use only) :	
PROJECT TYPE :	<input type="checkbox"/> Acquisition <input type="checkbox"/> Development <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Safety <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground Operations <input type="checkbox"/> Law Enforcement <input type="checkbox"/> Planning <input type="checkbox"/> Restoration		
PROJECT DESCRIPTION :	<p>Ground operations identified in this project will consist of the following projects:</p> <p>Trail Maintenance -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain 42 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. The majority of annual tread maintenance is completed using a SWECO 480 trail tractor and or Kubota tractor. These activities are conducted only when soil moisture is adequate and in accordance with the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines and the technical paper, "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California." Please see the San Bernardino National Forest OHV Program Soil Conservation Plan, attached to this application, for detailed information about mechanized maintenance procedures.</p> <p>Facilities O&M -- this project will provide staff and materials necessary to maintain and repair OHV facilities across the forest, including two year-round staging areas, eight parking/trailing sites and three year-round, full-service developed campgrounds with direct access to the OHV system. Activities will include cleaning, trash removal, painting, repair and general upkeep of all OHV related facilities including buildings, toilets, picnic tables, signs, etc. This project also provides staff and materials necessary to operate four OHV work centers , which house ATVs, tools and equipment used by the 300+ member San Bernardino National Forest Association (SBNFA) OHV Volunteer patrols and 38 active Adopt-a-Trail groups.</p> <p>WHPP/HMP implementation -- This project provides staff necessary to update the annual WHPP/HMP and to conduct routine monitoring of HMP sites across the forest.</p> <p>Soil Conservation -- This project provides the staff and materials necessary to implement the forest's soil conservation plan. Soil condition ratings will be established on each OHV trail annually, using the new Red, Yellow, Green format found in the 2008 regulations. In addition to this, staff also conducts additional monitoring using a soil erosion bridge measurement system to observe, over time, soil movement within the trail tread. This data is used to detect change and to identify potential causes of soil loss within the trail tread. The forest also uses soil monitoring pins to identify sediment loading adjacent routes. This procedure uses 8 inch steel pins placed in lead out ditches and cross drains immediately after annual maintenance. The top of the pin gives a datum from which changes in the soil surface level can be measured. Pins are monitored before and after annual maintenance to determine the amount of soil, if any, which has moved off the trail bed. If this measurement is greater than that at time of installation, then soil loss is occurring. If this measurement is less than that at time of installation, then sediment loading is occurring. This data is then used immediately in the field, during routine maintenance, to determine what corrective action, if any, should be taken to reduce soil movement from or adjacent the trail.</p> <p>The project also provides staff necessary to update the forest's Soil Conservation Program to insure consistency with the new 2008 guidelines.</p> <p>Archaeological Site Identification and Stewardship -- This project provides staff and materials necessary to conduct an Archaeological Field School, which will inventory heritage resources located in and around the Big Bear Lake area. The field school will support current restoration efforts on the Mountain Top District by identifying heritage sites within proposed restoration areas, helping facilitate the restoration of approximately 15 miles of unauthorized OHV routes. This project will also provide staff and materials necessary to implement a new Volunteer Heritage Site Stewardship program. The project will organize and train a team of volunteers who will routinely monitor known archaeological sites adjacent and within OHV use areas across the forest.</p>		

Project Cost Estimate for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
 Application: San Bernardino NF Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
DIRECT EXPENSES							
Program Expenses							
1	Staff						
	Other-Adopt-a-Trail Volunteers	8000.000	17.000	HRS	0.00	136,000.00	136,000.00
	Other-OHV Program Manager Notes : Hoffman - OHV Program Manager	125.000	274.000	DAY	34,250.00	0.00	34,250.00
	Other-OHV Tech Notes : Mason - OHV Technician	200.000	181.000	DAY	36,200.00	0.00	36,200.00
	Other-District OHV Tech Notes : Pratt, Wellman, vice Wyatt -- District OHV Techs	180.000	179.000	DAY	32,220.00	0.00	32,220.00
	Other-Resources - Patrol Notes : Branda/Hartenstein - WHPP Monitor	80.000	184.000	DAY	14,720.00	0.00	14,720.00
	Other-GIS - WHPP/HMP	2.000	328.000	DAY	656.00	0.00	656.00
	Other-Cons Project Lead Notes : Kopp	3.000	392.000	DAY	1,176.00	0.00	1,176.00
	Other-Botany / Plants Notes : Myers / Wyatt	50.000	217.000	DAY	10,850.00	0.00	10,850.00
	Other-Restoration Biologist Notes : L Stamer	40.000	305.000	DAY	12,200.00	0.00	12,200.00
	Other-Archaeologist - Site Steward Progr Notes : Doan, Griffith, McCarthy, McKay, Oberndorf	115.000	328.000	DAY	37,720.00	0.00	37,720.00
	Other-OHV Technician - Site Steward Notes : Mason - OHV Tech/Para-arco	50.000	181.000	DAY	9,050.00	0.00	9,050.00
	Other-Heritage Program Leader Notes : Sapp - Field School	20.000	425.000	DAY	8,500.00	0.00	8,500.00

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Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
Other-Archaeologist - Field School	75.000	329.000	DAY	24,675.00	0.00	24,675.00
Other-Heritage Program Leader - Field Sc	50.000	425.000	DAY	21,250.00	0.00	21,250.00
Other-Botanist - Field School	2.000	378.000	DAY	756.00	0.00	756.00
Other-Volunteer Site Stewards	6000.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	120,000.00	120,000.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - Field School	3200.000	20.000	HRS	0.00	64,000.00	64,000.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - Big Bear Green T	1000.000	17.000	HRS	0.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
Other-Volunteer Labor - OHV Vols	7800.000	17.000		0.00	132,600.00	132,600.00
Total for Staff				244,223.00	469,600.00	713,823.00
2	Contracts					
Other-UCLA Institute of Archaeology Notes : Donation from UCLA for Archaeology Field School - to include operating expenses, kitchen, catering, equipment rental, contracted scientific analysis, etc.	1.000	28000.000	PKG	0.00	28,000.00	28,000.00
Other-Enterprise Team	15.000	700.000	DAY	10,500.00	0.00	10,500.00
Total for Contracts				10,500.00	28,000.00	38,500.00
3	Materials / Supplies					
Other-Handtools for Host Posts	1.000	3000.000	YR	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Other-Signs	80.000	75.000	EA	6,000.00	0.00	6,000.00
Other-Greenhouse Supplies	1.000	3000.000	YR	3,000.00	0.00	3,000.00
Other-Arco Site Steward Supplies	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Other-Arco Field School Supplies	1.000	2000.000	YR	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Total for Materials / Supplies				16,000.00	0.00	16,000.00
4	Equipment Use Expenses					

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6/2/2009

	Line Item	Qty	Rate	UOM	Grant Request	Match	Total
	Other-4x4 - WHPP Monitoring	2000.000	0.370	MI	0.00	740.00	740.00
	Other-4x4 - WHPP Monitoring	12.000	260.000	MOS	0.00	3,120.00	3,120.00
	Other-4x4 - Soil Monitoring	2000.000	0.330	MI	0.00	660.00	660.00
	Other-4x4 - Soil Monitoring	4.000	316.000	MOS	0.00	1,264.00	1,264.00
	Other-4x4 - Heritage	6.000	272.000	MOS	0.00	1,632.00	1,632.00
	Other-SWECO Trail Dozer	4.000	665.000	MOS	0.00	2,660.00	2,660.00
	Other-SWECO Trail Dozer	200.000	18.870	HRS	0.00	3,774.00	3,774.00
	Other-Dumpbed	4.000	336.000	MOS	0.00	1,344.00	1,344.00
	Other-4x4 - Trails/facilities	8.000	316.000	MOS	0.00	2,528.00	2,528.00
	Total for Equipment Use Expenses				0.00	17,722.00	17,722.00
5	Equipment Purchases						
6	Others						
7	Administrative Costs						
	Total Program Expenses				270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00
	TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES				270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00
	TOTAL EXPENDITURES				270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00

Project Cost Summary for Grants and Cooperative Agreements Program - 2008/2009
 Agency: USFS - San Bernardino National Forest
 Application: San Bernardino NF Ground Operations

6/2/2009

	Line Item	Grant Request	Match	Total	Narrative
DIRECT EXPENSES					
Program Expenses					
1	Staff	244,223.00	469,600.00	713,823.00	
2	Contracts	10,500.00	28,000.00	38,500.00	
3	Materials / Supplies	16,000.00	0.00	16,000.00	
4	Equipment Use Expenses	0.00	17,722.00	17,722.00	
5	Equipment Purchases	0.00	0.00	0.00	
6	Others	0.00	0.00	0.00	
7	Administrative Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Total Program Expenses		270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00	
TOTAL DIRECT EXPENSES		270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES		270,723.00	515,322.00	786,045.00	

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ITEM 1 and ITEM 2

ITEM 1

- a. ITEM 1 - Has a CEQA Notice of Determination (NOD) been filed for the Project? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)

ITEM 2

- b. ITEM 2 - Are the proposed activities a "Project" under CEQA Guidelines Section 15378? Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- c. The Application is requesting funds solely for personnel and support to enforce OHV laws and ensure public safety. These activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. Yes No
(Please select Yes or No)
- d. Other. Explain why proposed activities would not cause any physical impacts on the environment and are thus not a "Project" under CEQA. DO NOT complete ITEMS 3 – 9

ITEM 3 - Impact of this Project on Wetlands

Refer to Wildlife Habitat Protection Program (WHPP), Section I Introduction, for discussion regarding the Forest's efforts to provide OHV opportunity, protect TE&S species, and the effects of the OHV program on riparian areas. OHV program management activities, including trail maintenance, are not creating adverse impacts to wetlands, navigable waters and/or sensitive habitats. The attached WHPP table 4 identifies adaptive management techniques implemented to protect TES species, while table 7 describes specific management actions implemented in response to monitoring results.

Please see included Categorical Exclusion for Off-highway Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, which states, "The maintenance activities outlined in the plan will reduce effects to Forest resources and ensure that OHV activities are consistent with Forest Plan direction to prevent damage to soil and water quality and provide for protection of cultural resources and threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and wildlife species." The categorical exclusion also states specifically, "Hixon-Bautista trail (2E43) includes an area where the trail passes through habitat for the southwestern arroyo toad. Although the trail dozer is used on the majority of this trail, handwork will be used for all maintenance activities in those portions of the trail adjacent to species habitat. As part of the maintenance of this section of trail, gravel will be installed to harden the crossing and prevent effects to the southwestern arroyo toad. Specialists will be consulted prior to any maintenance activity in this location, and within 200 feet of the stream, timing is limited to October 15-March 15."

Conservation and monitoring activities described in this application are also non-ground disturbing in nature and should have no negative impact to wetlands, navigable waters or TES species.

ITEM 4 - Cumulative Impacts of this Project

Refer to included Categorical Exclusion for Off-Highway Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, in NEPA/CEQA section, for discussion of cumulative impacts. Finding is that OHV management activities on the Forest will be of 'limited size, duration, and degree of disturbance'. Trail maintenance activities described within this application are specifically addressed in the Categorical Exclusion and will have no cumulative effects. Conservation and monitoring activities described within this project are also specifically addressed in the Categorical Exclusion and will have no cumulative effects.

ITEM 5 - Soil Impacts

Refer to the forest Soil Conservation Plan, as part of this application, for relevant discussion regarding the effects that ground operations activities are having and the measures being employed to protect soils on steep slopes. Trail maintenance activities are conducted in accordance with the Forest Service Trail Maintenance handbook (FSH 2309.18), the 2008 Soil Conservation Standards and Guidelines, and also utilize guidelines in the technical paper "A Field Evaluation of the Use of Small Trail Tractors to Maintain and Construct OHV Trails on National Forests in California".

Soil monitoring per the OHV Trail Condition Evaluation Form, as part of the forest ground operations project, is conducted annually to ensure soil conservation objectives are being met. Additional monitoring is conducted quarterly by two additional methods, soil pin measurement and tread profiling, described in detail in the Soil Conservation Plan. The forest's annual trail maintenance plan is developed in part from data obtained through this monitoring to ensure that maintenance activities are being conducted to quickly restore any condition where soil loss may be unacceptable.

The Categorical Exclusion for Off-highway Vehicle Operations and Maintenance, as part of this application, further concludes that, "...no extraordinary circumstances exist, and that this proposed action is therefore excluded from further documentation in either an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement. That determination is based on the following: 1) the project prevents effects on steep slopes and highly erosive soils, 2) the project provides direct protection and prevents effects to T&E species, 3) the erosion control measures and law enforcement measures proposed will prevent downstream effects to flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds..."

ITEM 6 - Damage to Scenic Resources

The Forest has four designated State Scenic Highways. OHV use is limited to a system of designated roads, trails and facilities, none of which is impacting the view shed of a State Scenic Highway. Activities described specifically within this ground operations project will not alter the designated OHV route system thus having no additional impact to scenic resources.

ITEM 7 - Hazardous Materials

Is the proposed Project Area located on a site included on any list compiled pursuant to Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code (hazardous materials)? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the location of the hazard relative to the Project site, the level of hazard and the measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the hazards.

ITEM 8 - Potential for Adverse Impacts to Historical or Cultural Resources

Would the proposed Project have potential for any substantial adverse impacts to historical or cultural resources? (Please select Yes or No) Yes No

If YES, describe the potential impacts and for any substantially adverse changes in the significance of historical or cultural resources and measures to be taken to minimize or avoid the impacts.

ITEM 9 - Indirect Significant Impacts

Ground operations activities described in this project have no immediate effect on the designated OHV system of the forest. These activities will result in no closures or restrictions, no new development or any other conditions which would redirect use or cause adverse off-site impacts. To the contrary, off-site impacts discovered during trail maintenance, soil monitoring, WHPP/HMP monitoring and restoration site monitoring are mitigated per protocols established in the Soil Conservation Plan and WHPP/HMP associated with this application. Routine maintenance of trail tread and erosion control features will prevent off-route impacts due to soil loss and erosion, while also encouraging users to travel within existing treadways.

The attached Categorical Exclusion finds that activities are of "limited size, duration and degree of disturbance," and that, "The maintenance activities outlined in the plan will reduce effects to Forest resources and ensure that OHV activities are consistent with Forest Plan direction to prevent damage to soil and water quality and provide for protection of cultural resources and threatened, endangered, and sensitive plant and wildlife species. Maintenance activities will correct water drainage and prevent additional soil erosion, while education and law enforcement activities will help to prevent off route damage through increased user compliance."

CEQA/NEPA Attachment

Attachments:

[CE for OHV Operations](#)

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1. Project Cost Estimate - Q 1. (Auto populates from Cost Estimate)

1. As calculated on the Project Cost Estimate, the percentage of the cost of the Project covered by the Applicant is 5

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 76% or more (10 points)
 51% - 75% (5 points)
 26% - 50% (3 points)
 25% (Match minimum) (No points)

2. Failure to Complete - Q 2.

2. Failure to complete the Project would result in: 8

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 8 points (Please select applicable values)

- Loss of OHV Opportunity (6 points)
 Negative impact to cultural sites (2 points)
 Damage to special-status species or other sensitive habitat (2 points)
 Potential trespass (2 points)
 Additional damage to Facilities (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

Failure to implement this project would result in loss of OHV opportunity as designated trails and OHV facilities would not be properly maintained across the forest. Rolling grade dips and other water diversion structures would fail, causing unacceptable soil loss and damage to habitat through excessive sedimentation. Failure to mitigate these impacts would result in trail closures (temporary or permanent) per Forest Land Management Plan monitoring protocol.

This project also provides substantial monitoring of heritage sites through a volunteer site steward program and monitoring of TES habitat through implementation of the WHPP/HMP. Consistent and frequent monitoring of these resources allows the forest to immediately mitigate minor impacts as they occur, which prevents the cumulative negative effects of repeated impacts to the same location. Failure to accomplish these monitoring activities would allow minor impacts to go untreated, thus permitting continued impacts to natural and cultural resources.

3. Sustain OHV Opportunity - Q 3.

3. The Project would sustain OHV Opportunity by 13

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining trail or road tread (5 points)
 Installing or repairing erosion control features (3 points)
 Providing traffic control and/or educational signage (3 points)
 Maintaining multi use (ATV, Dirt Bikes, 4x4, etc) (1 point)
 Providing varied levels of riding difficulty (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

This project provides the staff and materials necessary to maintain 42 miles of 24-50" ATV/motorcycle trail. These activities include surface blading of the trail tread to maintain cross slope, repair and maintain rolling grade dips, and to remove ruts, rocks and other obstacles as necessary to maintain the trail's desired level of difficulty. Please see the Soil Conservation Plan, as part of this application, for details regarding tread maintenance.

Ground operations also provides staff and materials necessary to maintain OHV related signing across the forest. The forest has recently issued a Motor Vehicle Use Map (MVUM) per 36 CFR 212.51. In response to this, OHV staff will review, update, maintain and repair OHV signing across the forest to insure consistency with the MVUM and provide OHV users with a high-quality, consistent experience. Signs are also installed and maintained at restoration sites to educate users about restoration activities and to direct them to legal opportunities.

4. Public Input - Q 4.

4. The Project was developed with public input employing the following 2

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 2 points (Please select applicable values)

- Meeting(s) with the general public to discuss Project (1 point)
 Conference call(s) with interested parties (1 point)
 Meeting(s) with stakeholders (1 point)

Explain each statement that was checked

The forest met with a San Bernardino National Forest OHV Leadership group on January 23, 2009 to discuss the upcoming grant cycle and to gather information about public priorities regarding OHV use on the forest. Comments from these stakeholders were considered during development of project proposals and cost estimates.

Forest staff participated in conference calls with members of the San Bernardino National Forest Association to coordinate volunteer activities planned.

5. Utilization of Partnerships - Q 5.

5. The Project will utilize partnerships to successfully accomplish the Project. The number of partner organizations that will participate in the Project are 4

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- 4 or more (4 points) 2 to 3 (2 points)
 1 (1 point) None (No points)

List partner organization(s):

San Bernardino National Forest Association
38 Adopt-a-Trail clubs
Institute of Archaeology, UCLA
Big Bear Green Thumbs

6. Impact to Natural and Cultural Resources - Q 6.

6. The Project will avoid and/or minimize impact to natural and cultural resources by 6

(Check all that apply) : Maximum of 7 points (Please select applicable values)

- Maintaining physical barriers to control OHV use (1 point)
 Protecting water quality (1 point)
 Providing bridges instead of wet crossings where appropriate (1 point)
 Protecting special-status species (1 point)
 Re-routing trails to divert away from riparian/wetlands areas (1 point)
 Providing sanitary facilities (1 point)
 Protecting cultural site(s) (1 point)

- Site design precludes the need for the above measures (7 points)

Explain each statement that was checked

Barriers and fences are used across the forest to protect restoration sites and sensitive habitats. This project provides staff and materials necessary to monitor and maintain these barriers. Water quality is protected through routine trail maintenance, which includes the maintenance of rolling grade dips and other water diversion structures to reduce soil loss from trails and prevent sediment from reaching adjacent watersheds. Bridges are maintained at the crossing of Deep Creek, and two additional water crossings are hardened at Hixon and Bautista. Metal culverts are installed at intermittent water crossings to reduce surface runoff. Special status species and cultural resources are protected through routine monitoring as part of this project. Sanitary facilities are present at the forest's two trailheads and three OHV-friendly campgrounds, the maintenance and upkeep of which is included in this project.

7. Recycled Materials - Q 7.

7. The Project incorporates recycled materials by utilizing 5

(Check all that apply) (Please select applicable values)

- Barrier materials which include recycled content or materials obtained onsite (1 point)
 Signs, sign posts or education kiosks which use products with recycled content (1 point)
 Erosion control features which use materials with recycled content (1 point)
 Paper used for trail maps which includes recycled content (1 point)
 Other products with recycled content (Specify) (1 point) [Greenhouse supplies - soil sterilization]

8. Sustainable Technologies - Q 8.

8. The Project makes substantial use of sustainable technologies such as 4

- Alternative fuel vehicles and equipment
- Renewable energy sources (e.g., solar, wind)
- Low volatile organic compound emission materials (e.g., paint, sealants, carpet)
- Low flow plumbing fixtures
- Water efficient landscaping

(Check the one most appropriate) (Please select one from list)

- No (No points) Yes (4 points)

Explain 'Yes' response

Resource staff and restoration biologists responsible for WHPP/HMP development and implementation drive hybrid vehicles when conducting WHPP and restoration site monitoring. The forest has also recently began work on a proposal to convert the existing forest greenhouse to use solar power and to develop two additional greenhouses with solar capability. Overall, the forest has recently adopted an Environmental Management System (EMS) which is reducing the consumption of gasoline and other resources by encouraging ride-sharing, the use of alternative fuel vehicles, and alternatives to travel such as video/phone conferencing.

9. Motorized Access - Q 9.

9. The Project improves and/or maintains facilities that provide motorized access to the following non-motorized recreation opportunities 6

(Check all that apply) Scoring: 2 points each, up to a maximum of 6 points (Please select applicable values)

- Camping Birding
 Hiking Equestrian trails

Fishing

Rock Climbing

Other (Specify) [Target Shooting]